

MINUTES
MARION CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT CITY HALL
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2018; 6:30 P.M.

MAYOR/COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Ashley Brady	Councilman Michael Baker
Mayor Pro-Tem Emerson Hunt	Councilman Joseph Frazier
Councilman Ralph Atkinson	Councilwoman Tassie Lewis
Councilman Ronald Atkinson	

STAFF PRESENT:

Alan Ammons, City Administrator	James Brogdon, City Attorney
Gwendolyn Davis, City Clerk	Tony Flowers, Chief of Police
Patricia Brown, City Treasurer	Jackie Yates, Assistant Fire Chief

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Mayor Ashley Brady called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and welcomed all guests.

2. PRAYER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Ashley Brady acknowledged the events that took place on September 11, 2001. He also acknowledged the people who innocently died in the events and the first responders who were brave to rescue the people. Mayor Ashley Brady led in a moment of silence in honor of the event. He then led the opening prayer and Mr. Alan Ammons led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. WELCOME CITIZENS, GUESTS & PRESS

Mayor Brady welcomed citizens, guests, and the press (Hometown TV 8).

4. APPROVE MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING AUGUST 14, 2018

A motion was made by Councilman Michael Baker, seconded by Councilman Ralph Atkinson, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on August 14, 2018. The motion passed unanimously.

5. AUGUST EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Assistant Fire Chief Jackie Yates of the Marion City Fire Department was named the August Employee of the Month. Mayor Brady acknowledged the Assistant Fire Chief for his longevity and thanked him for all he does with the City of Marion.

6. Approve Correction of Minutes for May 8, 2018 and June 12, 2018

A motion was made by Councilman Ronald Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Ralph Atkinson, to amend the attached change for the minutes on May 8, 2018. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Ralph Atkinson, seconded by Ronald Atkinson to amend the attached change for the minutes on June 12, 2018.

7. Pee Dee Coalition – Ronette Genwright

Mayor Brady mentioned that Ms. Genwright may not have been able to attend due to preparation for the storm and that she is welcome to come when she is ready.

8. Resolution to Authorize the Municipal Association of South Carolina to Act as Claimant Agent for the City of Marion for the Collection of Debt Accordance with the Setoff Debt Collection Act.

Mayor Brady stated that the city need a resolution for the state to act as a collection agent for the City of Marion.

Councilman Michael Baker made a motion to accept the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt. The motion passed unanimously.

9. **1st Reading on Ordinance 18-03, Ordinance Relating to the Recovery of Collection Costs as a Part of Delinquent Debts Collected Pursuant to the Setoff Debt Collection Act**

Councilman Ralph Atkinson made a motion to accept the 1st Reading on Ordinance 18-03, Ordinance Relating to the Recovery of Collection Costs as a Part of Delinquent Debts Collected Pursuant to the Setoff Debt Collection Act. Councilman Ronald Atkinson seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

10. **Resolution Committing the City of Marion to Provide a Local Match for a Municipal Association of South Carolina Hometown Economic Development Grant**

Mayor Brady stated that this is a \$25,000 façade grant and that the match for it would be \$2,500 which is a good thing. The grant writer on the HMRA staff is going to write the grant at no charge to the City of Marion.

Councilman Ralph Atkinson made a motion to approve the resolution committing the City of Marion to Provide a 10% Local Match for a Municipal Association of South Carolina Hometown Economic Development Grant, seconded by Councilman Michael Baker. The motion carried unanimously.

11. Bids on Harmon Park Drainage Project

Mayor Brady mentioned that there were three bids submitted for the drainage project on Harmon Park. The three bids were Herrington Construction - \$18,315, Moody Construction - \$19,675 and Sawyer Construction - \$14,450. The city will use CTC funds for the project.

Councilman Ralph Atkinson made a motion to approve the low bid of \$14,450, Councilman Michael Baker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

12. Enterprise Fleet Management

Mayor Brady stated that the vehicle lease cost for the year will be \$64,489.32. The vehicles will be delivered between 30 and 60 days.

Councilman Ralph Atkinson made a motion to approve the Enterprise Fleet Management Lease Agreement negotiated by the Mayor and the City Administrator for \$64,489.32 for the vehicles listed on the agreement, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt. The motion carried unanimously.

13. Resolution – Dr. James L. Suggs

Mayor Brady and the City Council of Marion recognized Dr. Suggs for his 52 years of service to the City of Marion. City Clerk Gwendolyn Davis read the resolution in honor of Dr. Suggs. Dr. Suggs stated that he is so impressed with the Mayor and City Council for the City of Marion.

14. Resolution – Jackie Hulon

Mayor Brady and the City Council of Marion recognized Mr. Jackie Hulon for his 50 years of service provided to the City of Marion. City Clerk Gwendolyn Davis read the resolution in honor of Mr. Jackie Hulon

15. Resolution – USDA Grant – Utility Trucks

Mayor Brady stated this was a resolution to accept the USDA \$50,000 grant for the utility trucks.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt to approve the resolution for the USDA Grant – Utility Trucks, seconded by Councilman Michael Baker. The motion passed unanimously.

16. Resolution – USDA Grant – Grapple Trucks

Mayor Brady stated this was a resolution to accept the USDA Grant of \$50,000 for a grapple truck. He added that he was hoping to have the truck by Wednesday, September 12, 2018.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt to approve the resolution for the USDA Grant – Grapple Trucks, seconded by Councilman Michael Baker. The motion passed unanimously.

17. State Contract Bid – Utility Trucks

Mayor Brady stated that the City would finance this and repay itself overtime.

Councilman Michael Baker made a motion to accept the state bid contract and finance it less the \$50,000 grant, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Hunt. The motion carried unanimously.

18. State Contract Bid – Grapple Truck

Mayor Brady stated that the City would finance this grapple truck and repay itself overtime.

Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt made a motion to accept the state bid contract for the Grapple Truck, seconded by Councilman Michael Baker. The motion carried unanimously.

19. Appoint Alex Steadman and Thomas McElevan to fill openings on Historic District Commission

Councilman Michael Baker made a motion to appoint Alex Steadman and Thomas McElevan to fill openings on the Historic District Commission, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt. The motion carried unanimously.

20. Administrator's Report

A. Update on CTC Projects

Mr. Ammons stated that the CTC Project on Martin Luther King Dr has been completed. With the project on Marshall Street, they put down the markings on Friday, September 7, 2018 with construction starting Tuesday September 11, 2018 and has until September 30, 2018 to have it completed.

B. Bids – Thomas Mobile Home Clean-Up

Mr. Ammons stated that he received one bid from Faithful Construction for \$4,000 to remove the remaining debris and an additional \$1,000 to bush hog the property. The City would need to spend a total of \$5,000 if they would like to proceed.

Mayor Brady stated that he thinks Mr. Swinton has done a fantastic job with cleaning it up with only one unit left. He added that he does not think it is the best interest of the city to spend \$5,000 to clean the remainder.

Councilman Ronald Atkinson added that he agreed with Mayor Brady and that there are only a couple of other small areas that need to be cleaned.

Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt agreed as well adding that he has done exactly what he intended to do which can be hard for one person. He stated that Mr. Swinton should be given the credit that he deserves.

Councilman Ronald Atkinson added that he understands Mr. Frazier's perspective but Mr. Swinton is making an effort to get it cleaned up.

Councilman Joseph Frazier stated that he agreed with the clean-up part but he had time to do what he was supposed to do. He added that it will be another 30 days if the council continues to let him slide. He mentioned that Mr. Swinton was supposed to have it cleaned within 10 days.

Mayor Pro Tem added that it is not necessary to spend the City's money to clean it up.

Councilman Ralph Atkinson made a motion for the council to revisit it next month and not spend the \$5,000 since there is only one bid, seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson. The motion carried.

Mr. Ammons added that the Interim Director of the Library came before the Historic District Commission with a request to temporarily put a shelter in the parking lot behind the Fire Department for the bookmobile (until they can afford a new bookmobile). She made them aware that they spent a good amount of money on repairs. The HMRA approved it for 3 years contingent with the Marion City Council's approval.

Councilman Ralph Atkinson made a motion to allow the Marion County Library to temporarily place a shelter based on the recommendation of the Historic Commission, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt. The motion passed unanimously.

21. CITY ATTORNEY'S LEGAL UPDATE

City Attorney James Brogden gave an update on the extraterritorial jurisdiction agreement with the County Sheriff's department. He stated that he is in the process of putting all the language together and going through the Municipal Association to ensure the City covers all the bases needed. He added that he would

finish soon and get it to Chuck McClain, the County's attorney, to ensure they are okay with the language. He stated that it should be on the agenda at the next council meeting to be approved by council.

Mayor Brady added that we already have an agreement with the county. This agreement adds protection for extraterritorial jurisdiction if the first responder responds to a sheriff call outside the city limits.

Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt mentioned that it gives extra help to the citizens when needed.

22. DISTRICT AND CITY UPDATE FROM COUNCIL AND MAYOR

Mayor Brady stated that the city had a department head meeting about the hurricane in which they started making preparations for the week. He mentioned that the employees worked diligently to clean the storm drains and made sure yard debris was picked up. He added that the Fire Department was getting ready by securing a high water rescue vehicle if needed. He thanked the Treasurer, Mrs. Patricia Brown, for thinking ahead to get the employees their paychecks early. Mayor Brady mentioned "Adopt a Storm Drain" and encouraged citizens to take a rake and clean it.

Councilman Michael Baker had nothing to report

Councilman Joseph Frazier asked Mr. Ammons about a contractor who had not paid his fees. Mr. Ammons informed him that it was a flood house through the recovery repair. The city renewed it at no charge because the contractor has been working on it for 18 months. If they were to start another project, they would need a new permit.

Councilman Ronald Atkinson reported that he went to the landfill and it does look good. He asked about some people who had a trailer full of lumber down in the landfill. The individual told Code Enforcement that he had permission from the street department superintendent. Mayor Brady mentioned that he would look into it and added that no one should be down there except for city trucks.

Councilman Ralph Atkinson congratulated and thanked Dr. Suggs and Mr. Jackie Hulon for their 50 plus years of faithful service to the community of Marion.

Councilwoman Tassie Lewis also congratulated Dr. Suggs and Mr. Jackie Hulon. She stated that her mother knows Jason Hulon well and she had a lot of jewelry to come from them. She thanked Dr. Suggs for his commitment to excellence. She asked that everyone please stay safe during the hurricane. She encouraged everyone to look out for their neighbors and especially the elderly.

Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt also congratulated Mr. Hulon and Dr. Suggs. He added that he graduated along with Mr. Hulon's daughter and mentioned that he knew Dr. Suggs son very well. He also congratulated Assistant Fire Chief Jackie Yates for being Employee of the Month. He stated that he can do anything and is a good friend. He encouraged everyone to be safe and take care of their families. He implored for the community to come together because it is needed. He added to pray for everyone involved because it will be a tough time.

23. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Councilman Joseph Frazier, seconded by Councilman Ralph Atkinson, to go into Executive Session for a Personnel Matter Regarding the Police Department. The motion passed unanimously.

24. POSSIBLE ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS

Returning from executive session a motion was made by Councilman Ralph Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Michael Baker to return to regular session. The motion passed unanimously. Mayor Ashley Brady stated that there was no action taken during executive session.

A motion was made by Councilman Ralph Atkinson to allow City workers to drive the city vehicles home within a 25 mile radius one way, seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier. The motion passed unanimously.

25. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Ralph Atkinson, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Ashley Brady

City Clerk Gwendolyn T. Davis
Taped: September 11, 2018